

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of November 20, 2002 has been received and contents carefully reviewed. Claims 1-13, 15-17 and 22-51 are pending in the present application.

In the Office Action dated November 20, 2002, claims 1-13, 15-17 and 22-51 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1-49 of U.S. Patent 6,356,335 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim"). Claims 1-7, 10, 11, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,608,556 to Koma in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,081,315 to Matsuyama et al. (hereinafter "Matsuyama"). Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koma in view of Matsuyama, as applied to claim 1, in view of U.S. Patent Application 2001/0043,305 in the name of Ohmura et al. (hereinafter "Ohmura").

The rejection of claims 1-13, 15-17 and 22-51 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1-49 over Kim. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 12, 13, 15-17 and 23-51 if the double patent rejection set forth in the Office Action were overcome. However, Applicants believe that the present invention is non-obvious over Kim. Therefore, the double patent rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable over the commonly-owned Kim patent in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one or more additional structures formed at an end portion of the dielectric structure within the pixel region." None of the cited references including Kim, teaches or suggests at least

this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-11 and 22, which depend from claim 1, and claim 12, and claims 13, 15-17, which depend from claim 12, are allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 23 is allowable over the commonly-owned Kim patent in this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a dielectric structure in at least one of the pixel regions, the dielectric structure having two end portions and a middle portion, the end portions each having a U shape with an apex, the apexes connected to one another by the middle portion.” None of the cited references including Kim, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 and claims 24-35, which depend from claim 23, are allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 36 is allowable over the commonly-owned Kim patent in this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a common auxiliary electrode around each respective pixel region; at least one electric field induction window in a corner portion of at least one of the pixel regions.” None of the cited references including Kim, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 36 and claims 37-40, which depend from claim 36, are allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 41 is allowable over the commonly-owned Kim patent in this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a common auxiliary electrode within each pixel subregion, the common auxiliary electrode having a hexagonal shape.” None of the cited references including Kim, teaches or suggests at least this feature

of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 41 and claims 42-51, which depend from claim 41, are allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited references, including Koma and Matsuyama in this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, “at least one or more additional structures formed at an end portion of the dielectric structure within the pixel region.” None of the cited references, including Koma and Matsuyama, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-7, 10, 11, and 22, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

With respect to the rejection of dependent claims 8 and 9, the Office Action cites Ohmura to cure the deficiencies of Koma and Matsuyama. However, Ohmura fails to teach or suggest “at least one or more additional structures formed at an end portion of the dielectric structure within the pixel region.” Therefore, Ohmura fails to teach or suggest all of the features of claims 8 and 9. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 and 9 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants concurrently herewith file a Request for Approval of Drawing Change to correct one concurrence of reference number 53 to 53a in FIG. 4.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7463.

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If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

McKENNA, LONG & ALDRIDGE, LLP

Date: March 20, 2003

By 
Rebecca Goldman Rudich
Registration No: 41,786

1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: 202-496-7500
Fax: 202-496-7756

MARKED UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION

In the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10,

Dielectric structures 53 of double Y shapes with curve portions are formed on the common electrode 17 and acts to remove disclination generated due to uneven electric field applied to the related art common electrode and pixel electrode (see Fig. 2). Also, in addition to the dielectric structures, at least one or more additional dielectric structures 53a may be formed on the common electrode 17 to compensate the electric field induced to the corner portion of the pixel region.